

Rotary to Hear P. V. Park Details; County Board Blocks Purchase

Complete details of the proposal to create a county park out of 1,800 acres in Palos Verdes Estates will be given members and guests of the Torrance Rotary club tonight by E. C. Porter, executive secretary of the Los Angeles county parks committee.

Porter will present latest information on the Palos Verdes park plan which is now being studied by the county board of supervisors. Because of the close proximity of the proposed recreational area to Torrance, the project has a great value to this city.

Not Legally Feasible

Immediate acquisition of the property by the county in lieu of unpaid taxes as suggested by Porter's committee appeared remote today in view of the county supervisors' refusal yesterday to make any provision for the transaction in the 1940-41 preliminary budget.

The county board received a report from the county counsel that purchase of the land, in the manner proposed (by the Palos Verdes corporation, details of which are published in another article on Page 1 B) is not legally feasible.

However, there is a possibility of the board further discussing the project with the County Parks Committee after July 1. Secretary Porter has requested this meeting. In his report to the supervisors, County Counsel J. O'Connor said:

"On May 2 your honorable board referred to this office a communication from the Los Angeles Parks Committee requesting the inclusion of an item of \$125,000 to the acquisition of an area for park purposes in the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

"Please be advised that in our judgment a consummation of the purchase in the exact manner proposed by the offer to your board is not legally feasible inasmuch as your honorable body has no authority to acquire land for park or any other purpose in exchange of a cancellation of taxes.

"In the communication from the Palos Verdes Corp. which accompanied the offer it is stated that certain figures outlining the amount of taxes are set forth. The tabulation, however, fails to include therein the accrued penalties on these taxes which are delinquent from one to five years.

"From that communication it appears that the accumulated taxes, plus penalties on the portion not sought to be conveyed to the County of Los Angeles by the Palos Verdes Corp., amount

to \$311,690, of which sum \$106,646, plus penalties, would accrue to the County of Los Angeles.

"The only way that we can suggest by which this proposed park could be acquired by the County of Los Angeles would be by purchase of the county of the desired park area of the 1,800 acres offered for the sum of \$311,690, plus approximately 20 percent, or an aggregate of \$374,028. Upon the payment of said sum to the Palos Verdes Corp. for the 1,800 acres of park lands (which would be purchased subject to outstanding taxes against that portion, which could thereafter be canceled) it would then be in a position to pay all of its taxes on the remainder of its land and out of said payment the county would receive approximately \$106,646, plus penalties thereon, as its share of such payment.

Resume Submitted

"A tabular resume of possible legal transaction is set forth here-with:

- "1.—Amount of all taxes on property of Palos Verdes Corp.—\$349,406 plus penalties.
- "2.—Amount of all taxes on proposed park—\$37,715, plus penalties (subject to cancellation after acquisition by county.)
- "3.—Amount of all taxes on remainder to be retained by Palos Verdes Corp.—\$311,690, plus penalties. The estimated 20 percent penalties is \$62,338, which makes \$374,028.
- "4.—Amount of taxes coming to county—\$106,646, plus penalties from Item 3.
- "5.—Amount of taxes of Item 3 payable to special districts—\$205,044, plus penalties.
- "6.—Amount of budget appropriation necessary, Item 3—\$374,028.
- "7.—Revenue to county out of Item 3 equals Item 4—\$106,646, plus penalties."

Suggestions Wanted for Frolic Fete

(Continued from Page 1-A)

tained again this year for the same rental.

John Shidler, who as head of the concessions committee has one of the biggest jobs of the whole Frolic, announced that he was receiving a number of requests for space on El Prado and was assigning locations of a standard size on the basis of "first come, first served." Organizations desiring to operate concessions should contact him at once in order to reserve space for their stands.

Teacher Tenure Law Due for Correction in 1941 Legislature

By JOHN W. DUNLAP
United Press Staff Correspondent

SACRAMENTO, May 11.—Of all the political "hot potatoes" in California, the teachers' tenure law ranks high because legislators and administrators alike fear the powerful lobby and influence of the school teachers.

There are definite indications, however, that revision and modification of the tenure law may be an important item of business before the 1941 legislature. The League of Women Voters is taking an active interest in the question and several prominent educators have made recent attacks on the asserted defects of the law.

Some critics of tenure cite the parallel of labor unions, which gradually usurped so much power that correctional laws were sought by a suffering public. They explain that labor unions, like tenure, afford a needed protection to the jobholder, but should not be permitted to mushroom to the point where the incompetent and misfits are protected and kept at work while the children and taxpayers suffer.

Cites S. F. Court Case

In brief, the tenure law operates in elementary and secondary schools with enrollment above 850 average daily attendance. A teacher may be dismissed at any time during the first three year probationary period but if a contract for the fourth year is signed, removal can be accomplished only by the proving of charges of unfitness, immorality or other grounds.

A referee system is set up to hear the complaints and the teacher is the right of the accused teacher to go into court. This results in costly and extended litigation. From a practical standpoint, school boards dislike this expense and trouble because the teacher usually wins.

Dr. F. W. Hart, professor of education in the University of California and a loud critic of tenure, cites the instance of a San Francisco school teacher, dismissed for alleged incompetence. The teacher appealed the superior court decision upholding the board of referees and the cost to San Francisco already is \$9,000.

Should Correct Evil

Dr. Hart's comments typify the opposition to tenure. He said:

"It seems fair to assume that if the people of San Francisco knew that they have paid \$9,000 to dismiss a teacher so obviously unfit as the evidence showed, they would rise up and demand the repeal of all tenure legislation. Furthermore, if the people of the state knew that many incompetent, unsatisfactory teachers are retained in their services because of the difficulty and expense of bringing action to dismiss them, there would certainly be a statewide movement to strike down tenure.

State is Neutral

The first tenure law was passed by the legislature in 1923, but was appealed to the courts and ruled unconstitutional. The legislature passed another law in 1927, shortly after which the state supreme court held the first statute to be constitutional, thus leaving two laws on the books. The teachers have been increasing the scope and restrictions of tenure steadily to the point where receiving tenure is almost a guarantee of a permanent job until the age of retirement.

The state department of education is forced to maintain a neutral "hands off" attitude but there is no question but that tenure has been one constant headache from the administrative standpoint.

Few will dispute the contention of school teachers that they are entitled to some protection. They claim that lack of tenure would permit biased or vindictive school principals and superintendents to dismiss without adequate grounds. They cite the principle of civil service in government as encompassing school teaching as well.

Seek Corrective Goal

The subject has merit on both sides and will bring heated controversy. There is no possibility that the legislature could remove tenure but modifications in favor of school boards may result, particularly if the powerful force of the women voters and other groups swing into the fight. The correctional goal would be to protect teachers who are physically and mentally fit and emotionally stable, but to eliminate those who obviously



TO GREENLAND... Because former Danish territory of Greenland is now on its own, Uncle Sam is sending this state department official, James K. Penfield, to Godthaab to open consulate.

She Patiently Waits for Us

By E. L. HORTON
2023 Gramercy Avenue, Torrance

At the end of the lane is a dwelling. It has stood there for many a year; To me it is still very sacred— For it holds old memories so dear;

Of a Mother who patiently waited For the boy who never came back, But she kept the light in the window Down the lane in that tumbled down shack.

In my mind I can still see my Mother— Sitting in her old rocking chair, In her hands the sox she was knitting, The light shining on her white hair.

I was but a lad when I left her— All alone sitting there in the gloom, No thought of what lay in the future, Thinking I would come back soon.

I left that dear home in a passion— I would show her what I could do! I headed right for the big City, I could make my own way I knew.

But I was doomed for a great disappointment, I walked the streets day after day. When I asked anywhere for employment— "Don't need anyone now," they would say.

Weeks passed, I became so discouraged; Then I met a man named Samuel Buck. "What's the matter, my lad, you hungry?"

"Same old story—hunting work and no luck?" "Come with me, I'll give you plenty— "Of work if you follow my rules, "But, remember, I don't want any squawking!"

"Ah, come on, don't be a big fool." Right then my troubles had started, I knew I could never go back To that Mother, who was still waiting— Down the lane in that tumbled down shack.

There are mothers today who are waiting, Keeping lights in the windows all night, Patiently waiting and hoping That their boys will always do right.

If it were not for our own Mothers— Their prayers going up to the Throne, Asking God's watchful care o'er us When we travel the road alone; Many of us might get careless, Perhaps get on the wrong track And never return to our Mothers— And that dear old tumbled down shack.

East Torrance Group Meets on May 14

Prospects of various improvements in the Shoestring strip adjoining this city will be reported at a meeting of the East Torrance Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday night, May 14, at Gene Hamilton's office 1612 West Carson street.

According to Rev. Ben H. Lingenfelter secretary of the organization, Los Angeles City Councilman Wilder Hartley will be present to give information on the improvements planned for the area. The meeting will start at 8 o'clock and all interested residents of the district are urged to attend.

are lost to school systems and forced to seek a new home every three years. Some schools circumvent the tenure by "trading" teachers with other cities.

Assessed Values in County Will Show No Gain

Total assessed valuation of land and improvements will show little if any net increase this year in Los Angeles county, it was estimated today by County Assessor John R. Quinn.

While there will be millions of dollars in new valuation in the thousands of new dwellings that have been erected under Federal Housing legislation, the assessed valuation of all other improvements is being cut 10 percent to allow for depreciation. Depreciation is allowed on all structures every four years, and the last time was in 1936.

The assessor's estimate means that the county supervisors will have a tax "base" of approximately the same as last year to levy taxes against. For general county purposes the county gets approximately \$15,000 in revenue from each \$1,000,000 of assessed valuation.

More Statements Filed

Quinn's estimates already have been sought by the county's budget-making staff and preliminary estimates also have been sought by individual members of the board of supervisors, three of whom are running for re-election to office this year.

Tax statements totaling 681,000 have been filed so far this year, being 42,000 more than last year, Quinn said, indicating that his office is ahead of schedule. The law requires that statements be filed by all taxpayers annually and it is a protection to the owner.

Such statements must be filed by June 24 this year, which is about 10 days earlier than in previous years. This also applies to war veterans entitled to exemption in this state, and Quinn urges that they file application for exemption at once, and it must be done personally by the veteran.

taste for the exotic Cuban papaya fruit. Demand during February trebled over the month in 1939.

The horse-soldier, or cavalryman, was characteristic of early Asiatic warfare.

During the summer of 1939, an average of one thousand guests per month passed through Death Valley.

Report Shows Gain in Jobs

Unemployment insurance checks amounting to \$32,091 went to eligible unemployed workers in the Torrance-South Bay-Gardena area during March, 1940, according to an announcement made this week by Edwin A. Bird, manager of the Torrance office of the State Department of Employment.

Bird stated that 2,203 checks were written for this area representing 0.5 percent of the state total. A 2.25 percent increase in California employment for March, 1940, over the preceding month, as reflected in placements made by the State Department of Employment, was announced in a report received by Bird from R. G. Wagenet, executive-director.

The placements represented a 23.2 percent increase over February in private employment found for Californians, and 17.2 percent increase in public jobs. During March, the Department placed 17,914 persons on jobs, and during February, 14,624. Bird said that March placements in private industry in this area were 10 percent higher than the previous month.

Kersey Promises School Cost Cut

A 1940-41 school budget below the record-breaking \$43,816,822 figure of 1939-40 will be submitted shortly to the Los Angeles board of education, Vierling Kersey, superintendent of Los Angeles city schools, said last Thursday.

The tentative figure to be submitted by Kersey will be subject to alterations by the board which will hear oral presentation of teachers' requests June 13 and is scheduled to hold a public budget meeting at Polytechnic auditorium in Los Angeles on August 1.

Idaho Tries Experiment With Non-Skid Road

POCATELLO, Ida. (U.P.)—A step toward making winter driving safer over dangerous stretches of mountain roads has been effected by surfacing of 150 miles of highway in eastern Idaho with a non-skid surface. Small rock chips are mixed with a coating of oil. The mixture is designed to reduce skidding when ice covers the road. The coating also is intended to preserve the surface of the highway.

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Cook Book Author Gives Opinions on Cookery, Recipes

(Continued from Page 1-A)

toine of New Orleans gave us the details of 15 of his greatest dishes, and other famed chefs were also generous.

Found 'Possum Recipe

"I had a great deal of fun out of researching for the book—why we even tried out some 16th Century English dishes out of some ancient cookbooks I've gathered all over the world! Those dishes were abominable! I hunted everywhere for the all-most legendary Liver Mmc. Beguy but was unsuccessful. Mmc. Beguy conducted a most estimable restaurant in New Orleans in the early part of this century and her liver recipe is mentioned wherever gourmets gather. Finally I found it—in a current magazine.

"Another long search for a roast 'possum recipe ended when I found it in an old meat catalog. In my travels—I spent many years in the Orient—I have yet to find a poor Chinese cook or a good English one. The English know their roast meats but their vegetables are something to run from.

New Book Out In June

"American cooking has vastly improved in recent years. I don't deplore the increasing use of canned foods—they are excellent—but our housewives have yet to learn how to use them tastefully. I believe the poorest cooking in the U. S. is committed in the midwest, not in the homes but in the public eating places there," McGehee declared.

In collaboration with Armitage, who has turned a hobby of compiling choice books into an avocation that "just about pays its own way," McGehee recently finished an authoritative book on the U. S. Navy which will be published in June. The Navy department, he said, permitted the use of some of its finest pictures to illustrate this work and the foreword was written by Rear Admiral Stark.

are lost to school systems and forced to seek a new home every three years. Some schools circumvent the tenure by "trading" teachers with other cities.

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